Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION L-03

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R 251720Z MAR 74 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3919

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 4109

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: EXTRADITION CASE: CARLO ZIPPO

REF: STATE 52748

- 1. ON MARCH 20 AMBASSADOR VOLPE CALLED ON MINISTER OF GRACE AND JUSTICE ZAGARI TO REVIEW THE EXTRADITION CASE OF CARLO ZIPPO AND TO EXPRESS OUR REGRET THAT ZIPPO IS FREE ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY DESPITE THE GRAVITY OF THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM. THE AMBASSADOR URGED ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS TO SEE THAT ZIPPO DOES NOT SKIP BOND AND DISAPPEAR BEFORE HIS APPEAL IS DECIDED.
- 2. ALSO ON MARCH 20 EMBASSY OFFICERS MADE SEPARATE DEMARCHES ON JUDGE PALOMARA AT THE MINISTRY OF GRACE AND JUSTICE AND COUNSELOR CLAUDIO MORENO, THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN EACH DEMARCHE THE ESCAPE OF COCO TORRES WAS RAISED AND OUR DESIRE TO SEE ZIPPO BROUGHT TO JUSTICE WAS EMPHASIZED. IN EACH DEMARCHE WE URGED PROMPT ACTION BY THE COURT OF CASSATION.
- 3. AMBASSADOR HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD DISCUSSION OF GENERAL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM WITH ZAGARI, AND MINISTER ZAGARI IS IN FULL AGREEMENT ON NEED TO COOPERATE TO FULLEST EXTENT IN THE INTERESTS OF CONTROLLING DRUG ABUSE. ZAGARI ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT PRESENT SURVEILLANCE OF ZIPPO, ALTHOUGHCLOSE, WOULD BE TIGHTENED EVEN FURTHER TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THAT ZIPPO WILL BE AVAILABLE IF HIS APPEAL IS LOST. AMBASSADOR ALSO TOOK OCCASION CONFIDENTIAL

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TO REFER TO OTHER PENDING EXTRADITION CASES TO URGE THEIR

CAREFUL AND EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING.

4. WE ARE AWARE FROM WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS THAT ZIPPO IS INDEED UNDER CAREFUL SURVEILLANCE. WE ARE NOW CONCENTRATING, HOWEVER, ON EXPEDITING THE APPEAL. WE HOPE TO EXPEDITE THE APPEAL TO OBTAIN A DECISION BEFORE THE CURRENT CLOSE SURVEILLANCE CAN BECOME ROUTINE. WE WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT ADVISED. VOLPE

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